

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached three sheets include changes to FIGs. 1-5. These sheets replace the original sheets including FIGs. 1-5.

Attachment: 3 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-19 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1, 4-7 and 19 were amended in this response. Claim 3 was canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to for inconsistencies and for heavily shaded patterns present within the descriptive blocks. In light of the present amendments to the specification and drawings, Applicants submit the objectionable matter has been addressed. No new matter was introduced as a result of these amendments. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. In light of the present amendments to claims 1 and 19, Applicants submit that the rejection has been overcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, 10-12, 14 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by the Admitted Prior Art discussed in the present application. Claims 5, 9, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art discussed in the present application. Applicants traverse these rejections. .

Applicants respectfully submit that the Admitted Prior Art does not teach or suggest one part of the first signaling information being transmitted between the network element and the first subscriber such that “the at least one part is configured in the interface unit according to the signaling standard of the circuit-switching communication network, and the remaining part is configured as second signaling information according to the signaling standard of the packet-switching communication network.”

Under the claimed configuration, only a part of the signaling information is configured to a circuit-switching communication network standard, while the remaining part is configured as second signaling information according to the signaling standard of the packet-switching communication network. In other words, all bits of the signaling information are not converted to one standard or another. Further support may be found in the specification on pages 10-11.

In contrast, the Admitted Prior Art discussed in the present application merely discloses that first bits of signaling information are transmitted in the associated circuit-switching communication network, which are configured according to a signaling standard of the circuit-switched communication network and that second bits of signaling information are transmitted separately in the packet-switching communication network, which are configured according to a signaling standard of the packet-switching communication network. An interface unit is thereafter necessarily arranged between the two networks for converting the data protocols between the two different bits of signaling information (see specification page 2, line 21 – page 3, line 6).

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 19 of the present application, as amended, as well as claims 2 and 4-18 which respectfully depend therefrom, are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is further submitted that no fees are due in connection with this response at this time. However, if any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No.: 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (0112740-211) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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